

REMARKS

Foreign Priority

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

Status Of Application

Claims 1 and 11-22 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1 and 11-22 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,111,605 to Suzuki (hereinafter the “Suzuki patent”).

Drawings

The indication, in the Notice of Draftsperson’s Patent Drawing Review, that the Official Draftsperson has no objections to the drawings, is noted with appreciation.

Objection to the Title

The objection to the title of the invention as not being descriptive is noted and a new title is presented in this Amendment which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim at least one distinguishing characteristic of the invention.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1 and 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Suzuki patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Regarding claims 1-8, independent claim 1 has been amended to more particularly recite at least one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, that *the external apparatus is one of a display apparatus and a personal computer*. Support for this amendment exists in the Application as filed, and, therefore, no new matter has been added.

The Suzuki patent has been cited as fully disclosing Applicants' invention. The Suzuki patent, however, fails to teach or suggest that the external apparatus is one of a display apparatus and a personal computer. In contrast to Applicants' invention, the Suzuki patent discloses only the use of a printer 301. (See, e.g., the Suzuki patent, Fig. 1 and column 10, lines 25-30.) The camera 101 is connected to the printer 301 via an I/F device 201. There is no mention of connecting the camera 101 to a display apparatus or a personal computer as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is apparent that claim 1 is patentable over the Suzuki patent.

Regarding claims 11-22, independent claims 11 and 16 recite at least one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, that *the detector detects whether or not the connection device is attached to the connector*.

In contrast to Applicants' invention as recited in claims 11 and 16, the Suzuki patent does not disclose detecting whether or not the connection device is attached to the connector. The Suzuki patent assertedly discloses a camera 101 connected to a printer 301 via an I/F device 201, and that the camera 101 comprises a communication I/F section 122 for executing communications with the I/F device 201. The Suzuki patent also assertedly discloses that the printer 301 determines whether or not the printer 301 is ready, as

indicated by step S603 of Figure 6, which is "Printer: Ready?" As disclosed at column 12, lines 61-64, the phrase "Printer" means that the specified processing is *performed by the printer 301*. Additionally, the Suzuki patent states that if the printer is not ready, then the printer 301 is automatically enabled *by the printer 301*. (Column 13, lines 8-10.)

The processing disclosed above could not occur if the connection device is not attached to the connector, and, therefore, the Suzuki patent *assumes* that the connection device, i.e., the I/F device 201, is already attached to the connector. *The Suzuki patent simply makes no reference to the detector, i.e., the communication I/F section 122, detecting whether or not the connection device, i.e., the I/F device 201, is attached to the connector, as recited in Applicants' claims 11 and 16.*

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is apparent that claims 11 and 16 are patentable over the Suzuki patent. Furthermore, claims 12-15 and 17-22 depend from claims 11 and 16, respectively, and, therefore, are also allowable over the Suzuki patent.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Suzuki patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art of Record And Not Relied Upon

Applicant has reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied on, and has concluded that this art does not prejudice the patentability of the invention as defined by the present claims. For this reason and the reason that they have not been applied against Applicant's claims, no further discussion of them is deemed necessary.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

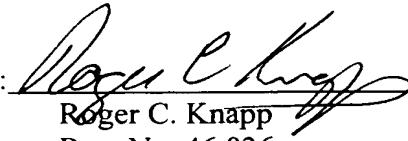
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Respectfully submitted,

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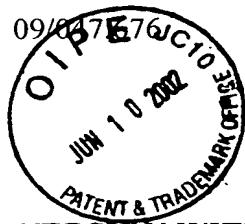
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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked-up version of the changes to the title and claims which are being made in the attached response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2002.

IN THE TITLE:

The title on page 1, line 1:

[ELECTRONIC STILL CAMERA] ELECTRONIC CAMERA WITH DYNAMIC
OUTPUT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Once Amended) A camera having an output section for outputting image data representative of a taken image to an external apparatus, comprising:
a communicator for communicating with said external apparatus; and
an image processor for generating image data to be outputted to said external apparatus based on a characteristic of said external apparatus, said image processor obtaining information on said characteristic based on a communication result;
wherein said external apparatus is one of a display apparatus and a personal computer.

Claims 2-8 have been cancelled.